

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

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DRAFTED BY: S/S- O: JCRAIG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093117

EXDIS TOSEC 63

FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM ATHENS 15 MAY 73 REPEATED TO YOU
QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2967

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, GR (HAYS, WAYNE)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN WAYNE HAYS TO GREECE

1. CONGRESSMAN HAYS CAME TO SEE ME THIS AFTERNOON TO
GIVE HIM IMPRESSIONS OF MEETING MAY 15 WITH PRIME MINISTER
PAPADOPOULOS. PRIME MINISTER, ACCORDING TO HAYS, APPEARED
TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH AND EXCELLENT SPIRITS. HAYS WAS
OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH THE RECEPTION HE HAD RECEIVED AS
WELL AS THE DETAILED EXPLANATION WHICH THE PM GAVE HIM
ON NATURE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIME. APPARENTLY THIS
INCLUDED DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION OF ELECTIONS AND THE
RETURN TO SOME FORM OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN GREECE.
HE RECEIVED ASSURANCE FROM PRIME MINISTER THIS WAS FIRMLY
THE INTENTION OF THE REGIME. PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED
VIEW THAT PEOPLE WERE GENERALLY FOR HIM AND THE REGIME,
BUT HE STILL FELT THAT THE OPPOSITION, WHICH HAD BEEN SUCH
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A NEGATIVE FACTOR IN THE PAST LEADING TO POLITICAL INSTABILITY, SHOULD NOT HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN THE RETURN TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. HAYS SAYS THIS WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME BEFORE OPPOSITION OUT OF PICTURE IN A POLITICALLY NORMALIZED GREECE. PAPADOPOULOS TOLD HAYS THAT RETURN TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WOULD COME QUITE A BIT SOONER THAN MOST PEOPLE THOUGHT. HAYS TOLD PM THAT HE HAD NO TIME WHATEVER FOR SOME OF THE OPPOSITION SUCH AS ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, WHOM HE DID NOT REGARD HIGHLY. PAPADOPOULOS SAID THAT IF HE WENT FOR ELECTION IMMEDIATELY THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME DISAGREEMENT IN THE COUNTRY, BECAUSE OPPOSITION WOULD SAY THAT MILITARY WERE ENSCONCING THEMSELVES IN POWER. HAYS TOLD ME THAT HE TOLD PAPADOPOULOS NOT TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT BEING INVOLVED IN POLITICS AS MILITARY, CITING INSTANCES IN U. S. PAST HISTORY OF SUCH PEOPLE AS JACKSON, GRANT, GARFIELD, MCKINLEY AND EISENHOWER. THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE MILITARY GOING INTO POLITICS IF THEY FELT THEY COULD SERVE THEIR COUNTRY IN THIS WAY. I GATHERED FROM THIS COMMENT THAT PAPADOPOULOS APPARENTLY MEANT THAT RETURN TO POLITICAL NORMALCY IN THIS COUNTRY WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE MILITARY. HAYS TOLD ME THAT HE THOUGHT PRIME MINISTER UNDULY HESITANT AND AT HEART A "PROCRASTINATOR".

2. AT END OF MEETING PAPADOPOULOS TOLD HAYS AND HAYS REPEATED THIS TO ME TWICE WITH SOME SATISFACTION THAT PAPADOPOULOS TOLD HIM " FROM NOW ON I WILL CONSIDER YOU MY FRIEND". PRIME MINISTER SUGGESTED TO HAYS HE TAKE TRIP INTO COUNTRY AND STOP AT VILLAGES ON THE WAY TO SAMPLE PUBLIC OPINION. HAYS PLANNING TO DO SO TOMORROW. IN LEAVING PM'S OFFICE HAYS SAID HE SAW PORTRAITS OF KING AND QUEEN OF GREECE ABOVE PRIME MINISTER'S DESK AND TOLD PM THAT KING WAS VERY POPULAR IN US BECAUSE OF HIS OLYMPIC YACHTING SUCCESSES. HE SAID PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE MAKING A MISTAKE IF HE UNDERESTIMATED HIS POPULARITY IN U. S. PRIME MINISTER DID NOT COMMENT ON THIS POINT.

3. CONGRESSMAN HAYS TOLD ME HE WOULD REPORT TO THE ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY THAT THIS REGIME WAS HERE TO STAY, AND I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WILL TAKE THE POSITION THERE IS NOT MUCH POINT IN PROCEEDING ON ANY OTHER ASSUMPTION. MOREOVER,
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I HAVE IMPRESSION THAT HAYS MAY NOW FEEL THAT USG APPROACH TO DATE OF STRESSING SECURITY, NON- INTERVENTION AND QUIET PERSUASION IS VALID APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM. I THINK THAT HIS URGING THE PRIME MINISTER TO GET BACK QUICKLY TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, BACKING UP OUR OWN POSITION, HAS BEEN A NET PLUS.

4. CONGRESSMAN HAYS APPARENTLY HAS BEEN SO IMPRESSED WITH
GREECE HE NOW THINKING OF COMING BACK IN AUGUST TO BRING HIS
FAMILY HERE ON VACATION.
TASCA UNQUOTE RUSH

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